

Congresswoman NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ

Representing New York's 12th Congressional District
Ranking Democratic Member, House Small Business Committee



Velázquez Speaks at Small Business Info Day Entrepreneurship encouraged, assisted at all-day forum



Congresswoman Velázquez spoke at the Small Business Information Day last month.

Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez kicked off a free Small Business Information Day for prospective or current small company owners in New York City last month.

Small businesses are critical to the New York City economy. They account for more than half of all jobs in the City and contributed to \$248 billion in sales last year. Their success will be critical to economic recovery after September 11, 2001.

Small Business Information Day brought together many organizations and federal, state and City agencies to provide assistance for small business owners or people considering starting their own company.

As Ranking Democrat on the House Small Business Committee, Congresswoman Velázquez is continually working to boost entrepreneurship and to lower federal burdens on small businesses.

"Small business is big business in New York City," Congresswoman Velázquez said. "And it is the key to the American dream."

Security Bill Includes Small Business Protections

Velázquez amendment ensures department will include innovation, savings

America's small businesses will have a better chance to contribute their innovation and efficiency for homeland defense under an amendment authored by Nydia M. Velázquez that was adopted by the House of Representatives in late July.

Congresswoman Velázquez's bipartisan amendment requires the new Department of Homeland Security to have a 23 percent small business contracting goal – meaning that nearly a quarter of outsourced jobs should go to small businesses.

"Our small businesses are the top innovators in the global economy," said Congresswoman Velázquez, who is the Ranking Democrat on the House Small Business Committee. "We cannot afford to ignore the contributions our small companies can make to help protect our country."



Congresswoman Velázquez met with Members of the Minority Business Owners Workshop last month.

Promoting Rights for Housing Residents

Congresswoman Velázquez helps, speaks out for residents in New York



Congresswoman Velázquez worked with residents for the annual NYCHA hearing.

Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez joined other elected officials, housing advocates and tenants to testify at the New York City Housing Authority’s (NYCHA) annual public hearing.

NYCHA recently released its 2003 plan and is required by law to hold this public hearing. The plan details NYCHA’s proposals for maintenance and construction projects affecting 800,000 public housing residents. Other issues included rent, work requirements, safety, and job opportunities.

Congresswoman Velázquez is the only New York City Member of the Housing Subcommittee in Congress. She is a staunch advocate of access to safe, affordable housing for all New Yorkers and the preservation of public housing as a viable alternative for the City’s low-income families.

Velázquez Meets Future Female Leaders Sadie Nash Project gives young women a look at Wall Street

Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez met nearly 20 young women participating in the Sadie Nash Leadership Project during their visit to Wall Street last month.

The students from New York City participated in a six-week program to develop skills and to become

leaders as they work to achieve their personal dreams.

Congresswoman Velázquez spoke about the growing contributions of women in politics and in commerce. “Pay equity is still a big problem for women,” Congresswoman Velázquez said. “One way to achieve equal pay is to go into business for yourself!”



Congresswoman Velázquez met participants in the Sadie Nash Leadership Conference for Girls on Wall Street.

Grants Awarded to Our Community

Education Alliance.....\$214,644 Funding for Head Start early education program	St. James School.....\$11,403 Funding for E-rate Internet connections
Citizens Committee for New York City.....\$72,750 Supports crime grassroots crime prevention	New York Police Department.....\$49,400,000 Funding for more police officers on streets
Criminal Justice Services, New York State...\$8,420,000 To purchase “first responder” protective equipment	New York Housing Authority.....\$8,053,425 Housing voucher funding